

ER 7-6791/a

*copy DEC 1955*  
Mr. William Benton  
Publisher and Chairman  
Encyclopedia Britannica  
342 Madison Avenue  
Suite 702  
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Bill:

Many thanks for your note of December 1  
enclosing the copies of your letters to Foster  
and to Luther Evans.

I note from the papers that some of the  
material you released to them has already been  
picked up.

I am looking forward with interest to  
seeing copies of the other material you mention,  
and I am most appreciative that you are sending  
it.

With best regards.

Faithfully,

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

STAT  
O/DCI, [ ] (6 Dec 55)  
1 - DCI  
1 - FMS chrono  
1 - Reading  
1 - ER (w/basic) ✓

DOCUMENT NO. 34  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☒  
☐ DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS 8 C  
NEXT REVIEW DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
AUTH: HR 70-2  
DATE: 2003/01 REVIEWER: [ ]

Handwritten: P.S. I am most anxious to have a talk with you. Please  
let me know when you expect to be here. A.W.D.

*LF*

2-6791

ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA

342 MADISON AVENUE

SUITE 702

NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

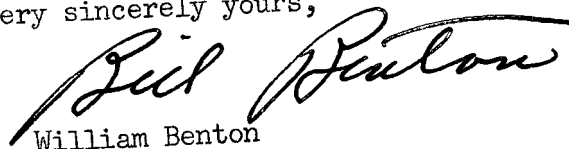
WILLIAM BENTON  
PUBLISHER & CHAIRMAN

December 1, 1955

Dear Allen:

I think you may be interested in my letter attached to Foster with which I send him a letter I am writing to Luther Evans. Very shortly I shall send along to you the full set of my dictated reports on my interviews - and a whole of a bundle it is.

Very sincerely yours,

  
William Benton

Mr. Allen Dulles, Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C.

December 1, 1955

The Honorable Foster Dulles  
The Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Perhaps you know something of my early responsibility for American interests in UNESCO. This partly explains why I am writing the attached letter to Luther Evans. But I think you personally will be greatly interested in the authoritative information I have just acquired almost accidentally about the content of Soviet history textbooks.

I am just back from a month's trip on which I interviewed thirty to forty top Soviet officials. My shortest interview was an hour and a half and my longest was three and a quarter hours. There was only one interruption, for a two minute phone call. I am told no other westerner has had such exposure in such a short time to so many key officials, many of whom had seldom if ever before conversed with a representative of the United States. I think I owe the interviews to Premier Bulganin who told me, "You will receive the full cooperation of the Soviet government - and immediately."

I took detailed notes and shall shortly furnish the Department with my dictated summary of each conversation. These have been requested and I am glad to comply. I am not able properly to evaluate much of the material except for my own use - a 20,000 word article for next year's Britannica "Book of the Year" which I am now in process of preparing.

I am giving my letter to Luther Evans to the press though, of course, I have no way of knowing whether there will be significant interest in it on the part of the newspapers. I am giving this out because I think the Soviet textbooks are a grievous matter of concern to us for the long pull, possibly much more grievous than the Soviet jamming which you so properly and constructively brought up at Geneva, and surely more grievous than transient orators in India. Incidentally, I congratulate you on your proposal that we exchange radio time with Russia on the domestic networks.

Very sincerely yours,

William Benton

December 1, 1955

The Honorable  
Luther Evans  
Director-General  
United Nations Educational Scientific  
and Cultural Organization  
19, Avenue Kleber  
PARIS, FRANCE

Dear Luther:

One of the first headlines that greets me after my return from a trip to Russia, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary reads as follows: "Britain Protests Soviet War Sins - Resents Khrushchev Charge She Aided '41 Nazi Attack - Moscow also Files Complaint."

The British protest was against a statement made by Mr. Khrushchev on November 24 in Bombay. The newspapers report that Khrushchev said that the United States and Britain "started the second World War; they sent the troops of Hitlerite Germany against Russia."

The reason for this letter is to call your attention to the fact that Mr. Khrushchev's distortion of history is not an isolated episode, tailored for a particular occasion. The distortion is continuous, a daily and never ending policy which involves the education of every Soviet child. This should be a problem of deep concern to UNESCO.

The Soviet Union became a member of UNESCO last year. UNESCO has long been concerned with the tendency of some nations, in their textbooks, to distort history and to deal unjustly with other nations.

Last month in Moscow I had the opportunity to spend a couple of hours with Mr. I. A. Kairov, the Minister of Education of the Federated Russian Republic. Mr. Kairov for ten years has been President of the Academy of the Pedagogical Sciences. He is responsible for the school system for the first ten years of

-2-

schooling, and present plans call for making ten years compulsory for all Russian boys and girls by 1960. Mr. Kairov was cordial and forthright. We discussed the possibility of scholarly exchange between the United States and the U.S.S.R. We examined some attitudes toward the techniques of education, including the use of classroom films. He cited a fourth year elementary school textbook on Russian history as an example of technique. This is the Russian child's first exposure to history. I asked if he would give me a copy of the textbook and of textbooks for older children also. He said he would consider my request. Five days later a packet of four history textbooks arrived from Minister Kairov at my hotel. These were the one from which he had read me chapter headings, for age ten or eleven--and also the texts for the 8th, 9th and 10th years--from ages thirteen or fourteen to fifteen or sixteen.

I have just had the section on recent history from the fourth year text translated. I find it astonishing. I am attaching the complete text on everything this textbook says about history since 1939. This is not a local, or an out-of-date text. It went to press in June of 1955, about the time of the Geneva Conference. It was printed in an edition of a million copies. The editor was Prof. A. B. Shestakov. The text was approved by an all-union governmental commission and confirmed by the Ministry of Education of the Soviet Federated Socialist Republic.

In the light of Mr. Kairov's friendly attitude and his expressed desire for better understanding between the U.S.S.R. and the United States, I have even wondered whether he personally has ever read the text.

The Russian youngster, reading this book, does not learn that the Western powers participated in the war against Germany before 1944. Then he learns that "In the course of three war-years England and the U.S.A. were postponing in every possible way the opening of a second European front against Germany. Only when it became clear, as a result of great victories of the Soviet Army, that the Soviet Union alone was able to defeat the enemy, occupy the German territory and liberate all Western Europe including France, did England and the U.S.A. open the second front. In June 1944 English and American troops stationed in England crossed the Channel and landed on the shores of Northern France."

-3-

All he learns about the war in the Far East is this-- and this is the full and complete treatment: "Japan was Germany's ally in the Far East. The Japanese usurpers endeavored to enslave China and other countries and more than once attacked our Fatherland. In order to secure our country's safety not only in the West but also in the East, to speed up the termination of the war, and to contribute to an immediate establishment of general peace, the Soviet Union entered into a war against the Japanese usurpers. On September 2, 1945, under the crushing blows of the Soviet Army, Japan acknowledged its defeat and laid down arms."

As for the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact, which opened the way for Germany's assault on Poland in 1939, this textbook says only: "The Soviet Union was always opposed to war and never ceased fighting for peace. That is why our government had concluded with Germany the Pact of Non-Aggression. According to this treaty the Germans promised not to attack us, but the Fascists did not keep their word."

I give these quotations as samples in the hope that UNESCO will study these textbooks in detail. Where can UNESCO find a project more suitable, more in "the spirit of Geneva"--a phrase which the Russian propaganda has made world famous? I hope you will present this project to your associates with my urgent recommendation of it. Here is a magnificent opportunity for UNESCO to seize that kind of leadership of which we who participated in the drafting of UNESCO's charter dared dream. I urge you to place on the agenda of the next general conference the problem of persuading member nations to make their textbooks fair and objective. Secondly, I urge that funds be now provided for a systematic study of existing history textbooks.

I hope that you and your associates will agree with the editorial in today's New York Times, "Mr. Khrushchev's Memory." Here it is, in full.

"Mr. Khrushchev has his nerve with him when he re-writes history to say that the United States and Britain 'started the second World War; they sent the troops of Hitlerite Germany against Russia.'

"Has Mr. Khrushchev forgotten the Molotov-Ribbentrop treaty of Aug. 23, 1939, that freed Hitler of his then existing worries about a second front and gave him the go-ahead signal to plunge Europe into war?

"Has he forgotten the cynical agreement of that same date under which Stalin and Hitler decided how to carve up Poland?

-4-

"Has he forgotten the Russian oil that Stalin delivered to his ally, Hitler, in the months from August, 1939, to June, 1941--oil that helped Hitler stage his air attacks on Britain?

"Has he forgotten the Russian grain and manganese and chrome ore and scrap iron that the Soviets fed to the German war machine during this same period?

"Has he forgotten Molotov's cheery message wishing Germany 'complete success' on the day Hitler treacherously invaded Norway, or that other message of June 18, 1940, following Hitler's defeat of France, in which Molotov sent his 'warmest congratulations on the splendid success of the German armed forces'?

"Perhaps Mr. Khrushchev has a weak memory. Perhaps he has forgotten all these things. He may be sure that the free world hasn't."

But whether or not you agree with this editorial, surely you will agree that the distortions which are being taught daily to tens of millions of Soviet children are far more important than the current oratory in India--or the oratory or messages of 1939-41.

Very sincerely yours,

William Benton  
Publisher

mkg

COMPLETE TEXT OF EVENTS SINCE 1938, TRANSLATED FROM

HISTORY OF USSR  
A Short Course  
Textbook for the 4th Grade  
Prof. A. V. Shestakov, Editor  
Moscow, 1955

THE NEW SOVIET REPUBLICS  
UNION OF WESTERN UKRAINE WITH THE UKRAINIAN SSR  
AND WESTERN BYELORUSSIA WITH THE BYELORUSSIAN SSR.

While the USSR was constructing a peaceful life a new world war was being prepared in Western Europe. The Fascists seized power in Germany. They were the worst enemies of the working people. The Fascist leader Hitler wanted to subjugate the whole world, saying that all nations should work for the Germans and become their slaves. Above all he wanted to turn into slaves all the Slavs: Czechoslovaks, Poles, Byelorussians, Ukrainians, Russians and others.

Germany started the World War II in 1938. She conquered Czechoslovakia and one year later attacked Poland. Polish Government, careless and unconcerned, was not prepared to wage a war, and the Polish Army was easily crushed. The Polish rulers fled and left their country to the mercy of the enemy.

Western Byelorussia and Western Ukraine were at the time under the Polish rule. The dreadful enemy was closing in and the Ukrainians and Byelorussians were in danger. On September 17, 1939, the Soviet forces entered the Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia and took under their protection the inhabitants of these areas. This had brought to a halt the advance of the Fascist bandits.

The Ukrainians and Byelorussians joyfully welcomed their saviors, the Soviet fighters. The route of our tanks was covered with flowers. The peoples of the Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia unanimously expressed their desire to become a part of the Soviet Union and to unite with the Soviet Ukraine and the Soviet Byelorussia. Thus the friendly family of Soviet peoples was enlarged.



-2-

FORMATION OF THE NEW SOVIET REPUBLICS

The conquest of Poland by the Germans greatly alarmed her neighbors - Latvia, Lithuania and Esthonia. Being also threatened with the Fascist slavery, the peoples of these countries turned hopefully to the Soviet Union. In 1940 they proclaimed Soviet governments in their respective countries and expressed their desire to become a part of the USSR. Thus came into existence three new union-republics. By the same token the frontiers of our Fatherland were moved to the coast of the Baltic Sea, and this further strengthened the position of the Soviet Union.

Almost simultaneously our government entered into negotiations with Rumania. During the Civil War she seized the Soviet Bessarabia, and the big Rumanian land-owners -- "boyars" cruelly oppressed its inhabitants. The peoples of Bessarabia and Bukovina, however, did not give up their fight for liberty and the Rumanian prisons were packed with fighters for liberation. The Soviet Government called upon Rumania to set free Bessarabia and Bukovina and the question of these territories was peacefully settled. Bessarabia and Bukovina became Soviet. Bessarabia united with Soviet Moldavia and thus came into existence the Moldavian SSR.

A terrible danger was hovering over Leningrad. The great city was close to the Finnish border and Finland was run by the Fascists. They dreamed of seizing Leningrad and other Soviet lands and started to fight us. The armed forces of USSR broke through the Finnish impregnable fortifications and inflicted upon the Finns a crushing defeat. The border was moved away from Leningrad. A part of the liberated territory was united with the Soviet Karelia into Karelo-Finnish SSR.

Thus in 1939 and 1940 the Soviet Union expanded and its western frontiers were extended and strengthened. The USSR stood firm like an impregnable fortress. Said Comrade Stalin: "We do not want war, but we are ready to answer the war-mongers blow for blow."

THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAREnemy's Attack

In the meantime the world war was spreading. Fascist Germany seized Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Yugoslavia and Greece. She was assisted by Italy, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and Finland. Germany was opposed by France and England, which were joined later by the U.S.A. France was led by the traitors who, while pretending to fight the Fascists, were actually aiding them. The French Army was betrayed, and the Germans having easily crushed it, occupied the entire country. Thus nearly all of Europe came under Hitler's control.

The Soviet Union was always opposed to war and never ceased fighting for peace. That is why our government had concluded with Germany the Pact of Non-Aggression. According to this treaty Germany promised not to attack us, but the Fascists did not keep their word. They concentrated a huge army near our frontier and treacherously attacked the USSR. It happened on June 22, 1941. Thousands of German tanks were ravaging our land, thousands of Fascist airplanes were throwing bombs on our peaceful cities. Having burst into our country the enemy was flooding it with blood.

It was a sudden attack. The Soviet people were working and much time was needed to mobilize them. In addition to that we had fewer tanks, planes and guns than did the Germans, and the Fascists were using the technology of nearly all of Europe. Our troops were retreating in the fight; the enemy was advancing in its drive at Moscow and Leningrad. Hitler boastfully claimed that the Soviet armed forces were crushed and that the whole Soviet Union would be conquered within several weeks.

Our Fatherland was headed, however, by Comrade Stalin. He knew the strength of the Soviet people and was confident of our victory. Comrade Stalin was inspiring everybody in the fight with the cruel enemy. He ordered concentration of all our strength for the defeat of the usurper, defense of every foot of Soviet land, and

a fight to the last drop of blood. He appealed for intensification of work in the rear to supply the army with all the necessities. He called for the formation of guerilla units in the enemy-occupied regions, attacks on the Fascists and their annihilation, blowing up of bridges and highways, derailments of trains, cutting of telephone and telegraph lines, burning of forests, warehouses and camps, so that nothing would be left to the enemy.

On Comrade Stalin's call all the Soviet peoples, to a man, rose to fight for the Fatherland. It was clear to everybody that the Great Patriotic War was the war for liberation and independence of our beloved Fatherland. Everybody knew that if we won we would be free, and if we lost we would become the slaves of German princes and barons.

The working people of Moscow and Leningrad were preparing to defend themselves. Many old people and girls took up arms against the enemy. Thousands of Muscovites and Leningradites were digging trenches, constructing fortifications, and fighting fires started by the enemy bombs.

The Soviet Army showed miraculous heroism before Moscow and Leningrad. For example, at the approaches to Moscow twenty-eight soldiers from the division of General Panfilov tried to stop the drive of fifty German tanks. They said: "We cannot retreat any more, Moscow is behind us". They knew that they would perish in the unequal struggle but did not yield; they fought to the end and held up the tanks for four hours destroying fourteen of them. The whole people fought with such bravery. Early in the winter of 1941 the enemy was not only stopped but also driven back from Moscow.

The Germans, however, were still rather strong. Having been checked at Moscow and Leningrad, in the summer of 1942 they opened a new offensive in the south. The Fascists were advancing further eastward. Ravaging Soviet land, they intruded into the fertile steppes of the Northern Caucasus, reached the Volga near

Stalingrad and were stopped on the Don in the vicinity of Voronezh.

The Germans wanted to bypass Moscow and cut it off from the Urals and Siberia. The danger was grave and our Fatherland was making an intense effort in the struggle.

#### In the Enemy-Occupied Regions

Occupying Soviet territories, the Fascists were laying waste to them. People were deprived of their grain, cattle and other products. The Germans were ruining libraries, schools and museums. Soviet people were forced to work for the Germans. Thousands of men, women and girls were driven to Germany and left in the captivity of German landowners and "kulaks." The slightest resistance on the part of the people led to torture and imprisonment. On the squares of towns and villages many gallows were constructed.

No persecution, however, could intimidate the Soviet people, and guerilla units were organized everywhere. The partisans were following Comrade Stalin's directives: they were attacking Fascist garrisons, blowing up the bridges and derauling trains. Falling into enemy hands, the partisans, despite cruel torture did not reveal anything that the enemy wanted to find out. Thus died heroically Soviet girls, Zoya Kosmodeneyanskaia, Liza Chaikina, pioneer Sasha Chekalin and many others. At the same time, however, hundreds of thousands of Fascists were destroyed by the partisans.

#### In the Soviet Rear

By then our country was converted into one war-camp. Men were dispatched to the front and women and old men were taking their place in the rear. Collective farmers were supplying bread and other products as well as raw materials for industry. The workers worked day and night, and many new factories were constructed. The country was producing more and more tanks, planes, guns and shells. In an endless line the trains were moving westward and the front was being supplied with all

the necessities. The quality of our tanks, planes and guns proved to be better than that of the Germans. Soon we were also superior to the Germans in the quantity of our arms.

#### The Heroes of the Front

The fight of Soviet people against the enemy was selfless and heroic.

The plane of Captain Gastello caught fire in the fight. The pilot could bail out, but he did not do so. Gastello directed his plane on the column of enemy trucks with gas and blew them up.

Heroic Russian pilots Zdorovtsev and Kharitonov ran out of munition in a fight. They did not, however, abandon the enemy but directed their planes on the enemy bombers. The German planes were destroyed and our heroic pilots remained unharmed.

The fighter Matrosov was advancing with his unit against the enemy lines from which a Fascist machinegun was causing great damage. Matrosov jumped on it and covered it with his body. The machinegun could not fire and our unit broke through the enemy defense lines.

Hussein Aliyev, an Azerbaidjanian, alone fought several Fascist planes. Seventeen wounds were inflicted upon him. Nevertheless, he shot down his enemies and came out victorious from the battle.

A bold fighter from Kazakhstan, Torunsabayev, participated in an attack against the enemy lines. The commanding officer was killed and this resulted in a confusion among his men. Torunsabayev jumped forward and exclaimed: "For our Fatherland!" He then led the unit against the Germans, who were soon routed. After the battle Torunsabayev said: "My business is to beat the Germans. All of us taken together are a great force".

Thus did the workers and peasants of all the peoples of the Soviet Union harmoniously rise against the hateful enemy both in the rear and in the front.

### Defeat of Fascist Usurpers

In the fall of 1942, the Germans were stopped at Stalingrad. Day after day the Germans showered the city with thousands of bombs, and their heavy artillery was pounding it too. But the city, turned into ruins, did not surrender. It was here that Comrade Stalin was preparing for the enemy a crushing blow.

In November the Soviet army opened an offensive in the Stalingrad area. At a fixed time the Soviet artillery began to roar, our tanks moved and the infantry followed them into the attack. The great battle of Stalingrad took place and the German front was broken up. Three hundred thousand Fascist soldiers were encircled and defeated. The usurpers were driven out of the Volga, the Don and the Northern Caucasus. Thus began the liberation of our land.

It was not easy to drive the bestial enemy. It fought furiously but was defeated in a number of great battles: at Kursk, Leningrad, on the Dnieper, in the Crimea, Byelorussia, Bessarabia and in the Baltic Region. In these battles many German divisions were dispersed or completely annihilated.

Forced out of the Soviet land the mad enemy tried to destroy everything. The retreating Fascists were burning villages and towns, killing thousands of Soviet people; not even the children were spared. Everything of any value was shipped to Germany.

In the summer of 1944 the entire Soviet land was cleared of the usurpers. Victory salutes were joyously roaring in Moscow.

### The Unity of Peace-loving Peoples

The Soviet Army moved its military operations beyond the borders of the Fatherland and soon decisively defeated the German allies - Rumania, Bulgaria, Finland and Hungary. Our forces entered their territory and all these states declared themselves defeated. Their respective peoples had ridden themselves of their rulers and joined the Soviet Army in its fight against the Fascist Germany.

Inflicting defeat after defeat upon the Germans, our army liberated Poland, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia. Fascist-enslaved peoples gratefully welcomed their liberators. They saw and understood that the Soviet Union was their best friend.

The friendship of the peace-loving peoples, in the meantime, was growing stronger and stronger.

The Soviet Union had borne the main burden of the war.

In the course of three war-years England and the U.S.A. were postponing in every possible way the opening of a second European front against Germany. Only when it became clear, as a result of great victories of the Soviet Army, that the Soviet Union alone was able to defeat the enemy, occupy the German territory and liberate all of Western Europe including France, did England and the U.S.A. open the second front in Europe. In June 1944, English and American troops stationed in England crossed the Channel and landed on the shores of northern France.

#### Victory Over Fascist Germany

In January, 1945 the Soviet Army entered German territory. Comrade Stalin, Generalissimo of the Soviet Union, called upon the troops "to pursue the wounded German beast upon his heels and to kill him in his own hole". German fortifications were broken and their strongholds destroyed.

Huge groupings of German forces were being surrounded and when they refused to surrender were annihilated. Valiant Soviet forces were advancing, fearlessly crushing the enemy on its own territory. Our victorious flags were soaring over the enemy land.

On April 21, 1945 our soldiers reached Berlin and were fighting on its outskirts. In a few days Berlin was surrounded from all sides and on May 2nd it was taken by the forces of the First Ukrainian and First Byelorussian fronts. The fall of the German capital proved to be the severest blow to Germany; it was soon followed by her complete defeat. Fascist Germany surrendered on May 8th and

was at the mercy of the victor. The whole Soviet land and other countries which fought against Germany observed the victory over the Fascist beast.

The Soviet Government declared the 9th of May a Victory Holiday, a day of national celebration for all the Soviet people.

Thus the mad designs of Hitler to enslave the Slavic people never materialized. The century-long struggle of Slavic peoples for their existence and independence ended in a victory over the German usurpers.

#### Defeat of Japan

Japan was Germany's ally in the Far East. The Japanese usurpers endeavored to enslave China and other countries and more than once attacked our Fatherland.

In order to secure our country's safety not only in the West but also in the East, to speed up the termination of the war, and to contribute to an immediate establishment of general peace, the Soviet Union entered into a war against the Japanese usurpers. On September 2, 1945, under the crushing blows of the Soviet Army, Japan acknowledged its defeat and laid down arms.

The feats of the Soviet people, and above all of the Russian people, the most outstanding among all the nations of the Soviet Union, made it possible for our country to be victorious. Thanks to the heroic efforts of the front and rear, the Soviet people, headed by their great leader Comrade Stalin, were able to defeat the enemy and save the Fatherland from slavery.

#### USSR AFTER THE WAR

As a result of the Great Patriotic War our Fatherland had been strengthened even more, and its influence and respect among the countries of the world had increased.

In October, 1952 the XIX Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union took place in Moscow. The Congress adopted a new five year plan for the years



1951-1955. This plan envisages a new great rise of the whole national economy of the country.

On March 5, 1953 the Soviet people and all the working people of the world suffered a great, irreparable loss. On this day passed away the Great Stalin, the pupil and successor of Lenin's work, at the age of seventy-four.

The death of J. V. Stalin, who devoted all his life to the service of the people, proved a great loss. The memory of J. V. Stalin shall always be alive among the working people of the whole world.

After the death of J. V. Stalin our people rallied even closer around the Communist Party and the Soviet Government.

The efforts of the Soviet people are directed first of all toward the development of the heavy industry. The production of metal, machines, electric energy, coal and oil has been growing from year to year.

The growth of heavy industry helps the development of agriculture, light industries and food industries, and strengthens the defense of our country.

The Communist Party and the Soviet Government are continuously concerned about the improvement of the people's lot.

The Party and the Government are headed by the faithful and experienced pupils and advisors of Lenin and Stalin. Nikita Sergeevich Khrushchev was elected the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Kliment Yefremovich Voroshilov was elected the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of USSR, and Nikolai Alexandrovich Bulganin was appointed the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of USSR.

Under the leadership of the Communist Party and the Soviet Government the working people of our country are confidently marching toward their great goal - Communism.